

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 are pending in the present application, of which claims 10 – 16 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 have each been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated July 28, 2005.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejections:

1) claims 1-3 and 5-9 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Soiferman; and

2) claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cilingiroglu.

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

In response to Applicants' arguments that Soiferman fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of the present claimed invention, since as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of Soiferman, the insulation layers 17 and 18, and not the energizing plate 10 or sensors 12,

are disposed on the respective surfaces of the BUT 16, the Examiner takes issues with the phrases “adapted to” and “on the side of one of the surfaces”.

More specifically, the Examiner asserts that:

the claims do not state that the conductive member and the plurality of cells be disposed on the surface of the board, only that they be disposed on the respective sides of the surfaces of the board, which definitely is shown in Soiferman. Furthermore, claim 1 mentions the conductive member and plurality of cells just have to be adapted to be disposed on the sides of the surfaces the circuit board. It is the Examiner's position that the energizing plate and sensors, of Soiferman, are adapted to be disposed to anything.¹

However, claim 1, as amended, now calls for *a conductive member disposed on one of the surfaces of said circuit board and to be supplied with an inspection signal; means for supplying the inspection signal to said conductive member; and a plurality of cells disposed on the other surface of said circuit board. Independent claim 9 has been amended in a similar manner.*

In contrast, according to lines 21-26 and 52-59 of col. 4 of Soiferman:

The energizing plate 10 is made of a high conducting metal material (aluminum or copper). It is connected to the AC signal generator 11. One side of the plate must have an insulation layer 17 (FIG. 2) to prevent electrical shorting with the BUT 16.

The electromagnetic sensor 12 can be in the form of a full size array covering the whole BUT or a smaller size array movable to scan the whole BUT. The switching and movement of sensors is controlled by the sensor unit 13. The sensor is placed in close proximity to the other side (the side without the energizing plate) of the BUT. There must also be an insulation layer 18 (FIG. 2) between the sensor board and the BUT.

¹ Please see, lines 2-8, page 5 of the Action.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the energizing plate 10 of Soiferman is not disposed on the surface of the BUT 16, since instead the energizing plate 10 is actually disposed on the insulation layer 17. Similarly, the electromagnetic sensor 12 is not disposed on the other surface of the BUT 16, since instead it is disposed on the insulation layer 18. That is, as clearly shown in Fig. 2 of Soiferman, the insulation layers 17 and 18, and not energizing plate 10 or sensors 12, are disposed on the respective surfaces of the BUT 16.

In other words, the applied reference of Soiferman fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 1 concerning *a conductive member disposed on one of the surfaces of said circuit board and to be supplied with an inspection signal; means for supplying the inspection signal to said conductive member; and a plurality of cells disposed on the other surface of said circuit board.*

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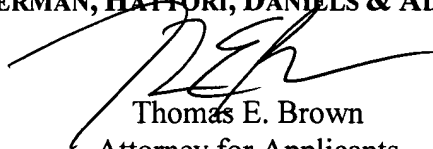
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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